

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended): A pledget and a surgical arteriotomy staple comprising, in combination:

~~the an individual~~ staple having ~~proximal and distal ends and a proximal end~~ adapted for individual attachment to a single-staple delivery device, the staple having a plurality of ~~distally extending~~ prongs commonly connected ~~at their proximal ends, to the proximal end~~ and ~~the prongs extending distally and~~ having tissue-piercing distal tips;

the pledget being ~~pre-attached to the staple and being~~ embraced by the prongs, ~~the pledget having surfaces and being~~ configured to be frictionally engaged by and between the prongs to capture and retain the pledget on the staple ~~and to enable the combined staple and attached pledget to be advanced together, by a single-staple delivery device, toward the~~ arteriotomy, whereby when the prongs of the staple are engaged with tissue about the arteriotomy, the pledget will be disposed and retained adjacent the arteriotomy.

2. (Canceled).

3. (Previously Presented): The combination according to claim 1 wherein the pledget comprises a plurality of peripherally extending tabs configured to be received between said plurality of prongs.

4. (Previously Presented): The combination according to claim 1 wherein the pledget has a plurality of holes, each receiving one of said plurality of prongs

5. (Previously Presented): The combination according to claim 1 wherein said pledget comprises a woven or non-woven fabric material.

6. (Previously Presented): The combination according to claim 5 wherein said fabric material comprises polyester material.
7. (Previously Presented): The combination according to claim 1 wherein said pledget is a polymer sheet
8. (Previously Presented): The combination according to claim 1 wherein said pledget is bioabsorbable.
9. (Previously Presented): The combination according to claim 1 further comprising the pledget having a physiologically active agent.
10. (Previously Presented): The combination according to claim 9 wherein said physiologically active agent is adapted to be released over a predetermined time interval.
11. (Previously Presented): The combination according to claim 9 wherein said physiologically active agent comprises a coating applied to said pledget.
12. (Previously Presented): The combination according to claim 9 wherein said pledget is impregnated with said physiologically active agent.
13. (Previously Presented): The combination according to claim 9 wherein said pledget is formed from said physiologically active agent.
14. (Previously Presented): The combination according to claim 9 wherein said physiologically active agent comprises an anti-microbial agent.
15. (Previously Presented): The combination according to claim 9 wherein said physiologically active agent comprises an antiseptic agent.

16. (Previously Presented): The combination according to claim 9 wherein said physiologically active agent inhibits intraluminal clotting.

17. (Previously Presented): The combination according to claim 9 wherein said physiologically active agent promotes extraluminal clotting.

18.-47. (Canceled).

48. (Previously Presented): The combination according to claim 1 wherein the pledget comprises a plurality of peripheral notches, each of the prongs being disposed within one of the notches.

49. (Currently Amended): The combination according to claim 1 wherein the staple has four prongs and further comprising the prongs being commonly connected at a crown formed at the proximal end of the staple, the crown including distally extending tabs or webs adapted to bear against the pledget.

50. (New): The combination according to claim 1 wherein the surfaces of the pledget configured to be frictionally engaged by and between the prongs of the staple are preformed before attachment to the staple.